THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE) : (a) to (c) All genetically modified seeds, before introduction into the Indian environment, require authorization under the Environment Protection Act, 1989. Such authorization is provided by the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) of the Ministry of Environment and Forests after satisfactory evaluation of bio safety from the use of such material including safety to human and animal health. The Government of India has not yet accorded approval for commercial release of any Genetically Engineered seeds in the country.

Developing environment friendly fertilizers

4325. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have taken till date, to encourage production/ research for developing environment friendly fertilizers, like Bio-fertilizers, in the country;

(b) what is the present position regarding supply/demand thereof, Statewise;

(c) what are figures of import/export for the last three years, till date, indicating foreign exchange involvement in respect of Fertilizers/Bio-fertilizers as well as targeted growth fixed during 2001-2002; and

(d) whether any Committee has been set-up to promote expansion thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE) : (a) In order to encourage production/research for development of environment friendly fertilizer, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research under institute programme as well as All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on "Biological Nitrogen Fixation" with 14 centres located at various State Agriculture Universities in the country have been giving special attention on identification and development of improved and efficient strains of microbes with greater shelf life and to improve their capability to function as effective bio-fertilizers either by way of fixing nitrogen or by mobilizing soil nutrients like phosphorus, zinc etc. for crop use. Similarly, under the AICRP on "Microbial Decomposition and Recycling of Farm and City Wastes", documentation of organic resources available in the country and the improved technology for urban and rural composting including enriched

compost, vermicomposting, green manuring, crop residue recycling etc. are being taken up to facilitate supplementation of chemical fertilizers.

Further, Ministry of Agriculture is implementing a Central Sector Scheme during 9th Plan entitled 'National Project on Development & Use of Bio-fertilizers'. Under this Scheme the Government provides a non-recurring grant of Rs. 20.00 lakhs per unit of 150 MT capacity per year by agro industries/cooperatives/ public sector undertakings of fertilizers, NGOs and private entrepreneurs provided their proposals are received through respective State Governments.

(b) The estimated bio-fertilizers production capacity is 18,500 tons including the capacity set up outside the Scheme. The estimated bio-fertilizer production is about 10,000 tons per year in the country. The state-wise details are given in Statement-I (*See* below).

(c) With regard to bio-fertilizers no import/export is made during last 3 years. The details of import/export of chemical fertilizers from the year 1998-99 to July 2001 are given in Statement-II (*See* below)

(d) Since the promotion of bio-fertilizers is a continuing activity in an organized manner, therefore, no Committee has been set up to promote expansion thereof. However, a Task Force was set up by the Department of Fertilizers for promotion of Bio-fertilizers in February 2001.

Statement-I

Details of State-wise Bio-fertilizer production facilities created by Government of India (GOI) & Others.

Name of the State/UT	GOI financed Unit		Other Units	
	No. of Units	Capacity	No. of Units	Capacity (ton)
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	3	250	2	77
Arunachal Pradesh	1	75		
Assam	4	525		

1	2	3	4	5
Bihar	4	450	1	11
Gujarat	6	1300		
Haryana	1	75		
Himachal Pradesh	1	75		
Karnataka	10	1350	5	680
Kerala	3	300		
Madhya Pradesh	7	1125		
Maharashtra	17	2400	6	4596
Orissa	4	525		
Rajasthan	2	225	3	1052
Tamil Nadu	7	800	7	1009
Uttar Pradesh	4	300	10	300
West Bengal	4	375	2	234
Pondicherry	1	75		
Meghalaya	1	75		
Mizoram	1	75		
Nagaland	1	75		
Punjab	1	75	1	3
Delhi			1	3
Tripura			1	10
TOTAL	83	10525	39	7975

Statement-II

Details of import/export of chemical fertilizers from 1998-1999 to July 2001

IMPORT OF FERTILIZERS (QTY. IN LMT)

Year	Urea*	DAP	MOP	Total	C&F Value for Urea only (US $ million)
1998-99	7.99	21.05	25.70	54.74	77.595
1999-2k	8.09	32.68	28.98	69.75	72.36
2000-01	0.68	8.60	25.68	34.96	9.098
2001-02 (till July, 2001)	0.67	9.06	13.19	22.92	7.1

*including complex manufacturers.

Urea is the only fertilizer which is under statutory price and movement control. Up to 31-3-2001 imports of urea was canalized. From 1-4-2001 State Trading Enterprizes are free to import urea including that on behalf of private importers. Other fertilizers are freely importable under the Open General License (OGL). The Government maintains information on imports of decontrolled fertilizers from availability angle and hence information on value is not monitored.

Export of Fertilizers

The details exports of major fertilizers like Urea, MOP, DAP and complex fertilizers during the last three years are given below :

Sl. No.	Name of the Exporter/Applicant	Major Fertilizer exported	Quantity allowed for export (for which NOC issued) (MT)	Actual Quantity Exported (MT) till July, 2001	Destination
1	2	3	4	5	6
	1998-99				
1	MMTC	Urea	40,000	Nil	Nepal
	1999-2000				
1	IFFCO	Urea	60,000	31227.4*	Nepal
2	RCF	Complex (NPK)	500	40	Sharjah
3	IPL	MOP	10,000	12,840	Bangladesh

1	2	3	4	5	6
	2000-01				
1	IPL	MOP	25,000 (export license by DGFT issued in 2001-02)		
2	RCF	Complexes (NPK)	40	40	Sharjah
1	Nagarjuna Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd. (NFCL)	Urea	30,000 MTs	Nil	Vietnam
2	Indo-Gulf	Urea	20,000	20,000	Nepal
	2001-02				
1	Nagarjuna Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd. (NFCL)	Urea	3,000 MTs with a margin of±10%	2800 MTs	Myanmar
2	Tata Chemicals Ltd. (TCL)	Urea	20,000	11,399	Nepal
3	Indo-Gulf	Urea	35,000	Nil	Nepal
4	IFFCO	Urea	50,000 (20,000 through STC)	Nil	Nepal

Indian Wildlife Advisory Board

4326. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the instances when the Indian Wildlife Advisory Board has met from 1990 to 2001, and

(b) the details in this regard, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) The Indian Board for Wildlife under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister of India is the highest advisory body on wildlife matters. The meeting of the board is convened only when circumstances warrant such meeting. When the board is not in session, its functions are discharged by the Standing